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TIGHTWIRE

SPRING ISSUE 1993

PRISON FOR WOMEN. (KINGSTON, ONTARIO)



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EDITORIAL

Hi everyone! Our apologies for not getting you a "Tightwire" before now, but we had have had trouble with our platemaker. Hopefully we'll be publishing on a regular basis now, so don't mail your cancellations! Contributions have been a little slow lately. I hope to have more in the near future. - All advice, criticism, art, and poetry is appreciated and needed. We would like to hear from the prison population and any of our readers.

Regarding the article on mother's keeping their babies in the Wing area of the prison after they are released from hospital. This issue is not a sure thing at the moment as there has been lots of controversy over it. The article is printed so that you can have an idea what has been planned before the speculation.

Tightwire is published four times a year by Tightwire Publications, Prison for Women, Kingston, Ontario. The contents are compiled by prisoners with a variety of sources: Their own writing, those of other prisoners, other newspaper and magazine articles, and submissions from outside contributions.

Happy reading,

Julie McKay
Editor

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POT-SHOTS NO. 857.

Ashleigh Brilliant



I have never
behaved
improperly,

BUT I
RESERVE THE RIGHT
TO DECIDE
WHAT IS PROPER.

OPINION LETTER

THE ARTICLES THAT ARE PRINTED IN THIS ISSUE ARE NOT NECESSARILY THOSE OF ALL PRISONERS HERE. THESE ARTICLES ARE TO INFORM THE OUTSIDE WORLD OF OUR FEELINGS AND OPINIONS THEREFORE THERE WILL BE ARTICLES THAT OTHER PEOPLE WILL NOT AGREE WITH.

THIS IS JUST TO LET YOU KNOW EVERY INDIVIDUAL IS ENTITLED TO THEIR OWN OPINIONS. IN CANADA THERE IS WHAT WE CALL FREEDOM OF SPEECH AND THAT IS WHAT WE WILL BE FOLLOWING IN THIS PUBLICATION.

THANKYOU!

JULIE MCKAY.

NEW PROGRAM ASSIGNMENT BOARD

Prior to the new program assignment board there was the work board. With the work board, notice of work opportunities were placed on the notice board and people applied for jobs. There was no priority to match jobs to the needs of people and there was no clear priority for programs to take precedent over work, work including cleaning, painting, shovelling, sewing, hair-dressing, or kitchen work. People on the new program board are different to the old work board, before it was made up of the head of education, and various work supervisors. Now it is made up of:

Correctional Supervisor

Chief of Case Management

Head Teacher

Psychology

Preventive Security Officer

Program Clerk

Case Management Officers

Others may also be invited.

Now the program assignment Board assigns people things to do according to their Program Plan which is drawn up with case manager, and C.O 2.

The plan gives priority to needs and is aimed at needs likely to reduce the chances of your return to prison. It is designed to help you stay on the street, integrating into society with some new skills. In the old system you were assigned to work immediately with no formal system for reviewing you. Under the new system, prisoners are seen in the first two weeks and assigned routine work in the institution. This is only for an 8 week period. The program plan is based on reports from the teacher and your C.O.. In these reports you will be recommended for various programs depending on your needs, some of these might be Northern Treatment Centre or other drug rehabilitation programs, Cog Skills, parenting, or up-grading. With the program plan, programs are a priority and work comes second. One of the highest priorities is completion of grade 10. Program plan should indicate long term objectives for instance careers that might interest you such as hairdressing, clerical work, or cooking. You decide what you would like to do and speak to your C.O. so he/she can try and get you a related job. Therefore once programs are allocated and those needs met, you can look at where you want to work during the time not being used for programs.

There was a rule effective April 1st 1993, however it has been postponed until July 1st, 1993 which will require you to follow your program plan, the consequences of not following the plan will be that you remain at level 1 pay, if you follow the plan you move to level 2 and if you do exceptionally well you move to level 3. There will be no more levels 4 & 5.

The Parole board will look at whether you do or don't follow your plan and deal with problems you may have. The program assignment board will not be looking for total conformation and if you decide to tackle a problem differently and effectively this should be taken into consideration. IE: if you have a serious substance abuse

7problem and it is the most severe problem, you will be expected to do something about it. Example - If you have 5 problems and you take care of 3 most serious and you have plans to deal with the others, that will be considered by the parole board and the program assignment board. If you choose to do nothing about your problems, again you must face the consequences.

The program board is required to give you a chance to defend yourself, if for example your pay is cut or not increased. You have the right to appear and present your case, they will be obliged to be open-minded and give consideration to you. If there are incidents where the board has not been operating in this manner, speak to Matthew Gventer or Pat Cadue, They will arrange for you to come to the program assignment board and present your case. If you get a job after the initial 8 weeks and are assigned to a program by the program assignment board you will not lose your job and you will receive no pay-cut. If you want to quit your job you should go in front of the program board for re-assignment. If you don't and quit on the spot or are fired, you will start over at level 1 pay. Normally you are expected to remain at a job for at least 14 weeks but your case management officer may recommend waiver of this rule if well justified. You are not officially fired from a job until you go in front of the board - you are suspended. Jobs and programs are considered equal after the initial 8 week period, because jobs are career orientated. It is good practise to work in the institution, getting up early, being on time, getting used to a schedule, and balancing your finances. If you refuse to work you can be charged and will receive 0 pay until you go before the program board (usually within 6 days) Welfare pay is issued when there is no work due to a power outage, storms, or anything where the institution is closed down. Unemployed prisoners due to lack of work opportunities will also receive welfare pay.

It is the view of the staff that this will benefit people and help them to achieve goals in life. It is not seen as oppressive. The Program assignment board is a means of communication and will only become a failure if it becomes dictatorial and not responsive. Hopefully this will not happen.

This article is based on information given by Matthew Gventner and is not the opinion of the writer. If you agree or have had problems with the new program board. This is your newsletter and we want your ideas and opinion to be in it.

COMMENTS TO THE EDITOR

These are comments submitted to the editor of Tightwire from the entire inmate population

"This goes for the wing. I personally think that people should be more considerate about the noise they are making. The ones doing most of the complaining are the ones who make the noise, especially in the S. Wing."
=====

"My comment is regarding the parole board. I believe the parole board is unfair to the women They don't want you to go to a certain house where a bed is available instead they make it so that you end up sitting here waiting for a bed for two months or more. What is the legal system doing to us? and where are our rights? Are they stripping us of everything? Something should be done about this and soon."
=====

"I personally have had problems with paper work here. A strange new charge appeared on my record. I don't know who is responsible but I do know I was put on the spot and questioned suspiciously about it when I said it was not correct. I was informed if it couldn't be sorted out then I would have to retain a lawyer. I wouldn't mind really what is on my record if it doesn't effect me but it is an escaped custody for which it says I received 3 years! NOT. This will effect my parole, especially Day Parole I think that someone wherever it may be, here or elsewhere should be more on the ball. *I have just found out that they are Sorting it out but I really don't need this hassle. I have enough problems without this bull."
=====

"In regard to one's health needs. I feel even with a 24 hour coverage with a nurse, the girls shouldn't have to wait until there is an opening to see a doctor. Being sick in a closed in environment is hard because many girls are repeatedly sick. Need help soon to keep those gals healthy!"
=====

"With regard to the solidarity in this building it seems that CSC has perfected it's plan in turning inmates against inmates. Protective custody -P.C.'s and informants -rats, their word is taken as the truth and ours is ignored. I thought that inmates excluding P.C.'s and informants should fight for on another instead of turning against each other. We are all the same no-one is better or worse. Lets try and get the solidarity issue back in place and screw CSC. P.C.'s and informers, you know who you are, keep to

yourselves and quit ratting out about every little thing. Got It!"

=====

" In regard to the opinion of the previous person - Do your own time, clean the garbage out of your own back yard. Don't be so quick to label other inmates. Don't let it control you. Many of us don't like P.C.'s and pigeons, but we each have our own lives to live and our own time to do. There are always ones to point the finger - labelling comes much too easy here at P4W if you have nothing nice to say, don't say it at all. Lets get with reality, not some made up story, just because you don't like someone. See it is us inmates that are turning inmates against each other not the CSC. Lets get with the program. It's our prison, we are all responsible to make it what it is supposed to be.

=====

"In response to the above opinion, Most people that are labelled are labelled for a reason. If you inform on another person you may get less time yourself but there are always consequences - one of them is having people find out what you really are, and hopefully with this information we know what we are dealing with and will not give you the chance to do the same thing to us. If you have it in you to commit a crime you should expect the consequences - there is NO excuse for informing! like the story goes you do the crime you do the time. Do you think it is fair to expect the majority of regular cons to have to co-exist with these types of people? isn't it fair that we should know about them ? therefore we have the so-called labelling you speak of. Also at the end of your paragraph you mention - what it is supposed to be. what is a prison supposed to be? a safe haven for all the low lives where they can finish their sentence with no animosity from the rest of us - I don't think so, not this prisoner anyway.

=====

"I think that we should treat the guards nicer because they are hard workers, very friendly, and Care."

=====

" I think so too!"

=====

"I would like to see something done about communications from one institution to another. After checking the C.D.'s, I have seen that it states that the C.O.'s are to try and keep family communication established not try to deter it. It should be made known that we are entitled to communication!"

=====

Dear Inmate Committee,

Books 2 Prisoners is a new program whose purpose is to broaden the range of reading materials available to prisoners throughout Canada by providing free reading material by request.

During our collective years of experience doing prison solidarity work across the country we have become aware of the lack of access prisoners have to current and diverse reading material. Books 2 Prisoners have access to books, journals, magazines on a wide range of subjects including health, history, women's issues, politics, sexuality, etc.

We have been in contact with prison officials at institutions throughout Canada and have been informed that the Books 2 Prisoners program can proceed in accordance with directive 764 as outlined by Denis Barbe, Manager of Education.

Books 2 Prisoners will accept requests for books, journals or magazines by subject, author, or title. We will send the reading materials free of charge, directly to prisoners.

We would appreciate your support of our project and ask that you post this letter and make others aware of this new program.

Please contact us if you have any questions, requests, or suggestions.

In solidarity,

Books 2 Prisoners.

Books 2 Prisoners
315 Cambie Street,
Vancouver, British Columbia,
V6B 2N4
Canada.

THE HEALING PERSPECTIVE

Goal setting has become very popular lately. It is the process of focusing the mind on a desired result. Keep thinking about what you want. Our minds are so powerful when focused, we usually get whatever it is we desire. But isn't that just another way of trying to get the world to do what we want it to do?

One of the reasons we are always trying to control the results in life is because we think the world is chaotic when left to it's own devices. Certainly our world may have been that way in the past. Now it's time we started over. Let's say, from today on, we are going to do things differently.

GOD WILL HELP US, IF WE ASK HIM. BY saying "may GOD's will be done" in any situation, is the same thing as saying "May I become the very best that I am capable of being". Isn't that a nice way of looking at any situation? We can become the very best at whatever we do. Why not give it a try! We have nothing to lose, and much to gain.

We can heal in this place. It isn't easy and we have to work very hard on ourselves. Let's say, I'm going to heal despite this place, not because of this place. I'm going to be in control now. Because our minds are private, that is the only thing we have going for us here. We can choose to think whatever we want to. No one can guide our minds for us.

As we begin to heal ourselves, our effects on others will be healing, because LOVE will guide our minds. Ask only that your heart be open to giving love and receiving love. Whatever you do, do it with love.

Let's begin each day with good thoughts. Choose good thoughts. If you can't do it for one day, try one hour, then two. Suddenly those hours will become a whole day, and every day will become better. We can make it happen, for us, for ourselves..and then for others too.

May the rest of your journey through life be wonderful, productive, and full of good things.

Take care of you!!

Melissa Stewart - North Wing

EASY DOES IT

EASY DOES IT, EASY DOES IT

I ALWAYS KNEW THERE WAS MORE TO ME
THAN FIGHTING HARD TO SET MYSELF FREE
SO I QUIT FIGHTING, AND LET MYSELF BE
IT'S IN ME.

WE CAN MAKE THE CHANGES

WE CAN MAKE THE CHANGES IF WE WANT
WE CAN MAKE THE CHANGES IF WE TRY
EVERYTHING WE WANT TO SEE
WE CAN MAKE REALITY
WE CAN MAKE THE CHANGES, AND WE WILL.

By: Melissa Stewart



*If you have come to help me
You are wasting your time.....*

*But if you have come because your liberation
is bound up with mine...*

THEN LET US WORK TOGETHER...



By: Melissa Stewart

"Behold I have you inscribed you on the palms
of my hands; Your wall's are continually be-
fore me.



CORRECTIONAL LAW PROJECT

The Correctional Law Project is specialized legal aid clinic funded by the Ontario Legal Aid Plan and Queen's University Faculty of Law. The project has two lawyers on staff - Charlene Mandell: Project Director and Michael Mandelcorn: Assistant Director. Law students working under the supervision of the project's lawyer and do much of the work required.

The Correctional Law Project is intended to "provide prisoners with advice, assistance and representation in areas of Correctional Law". Representation is available for NPB hearings - parole and detention hearings, post suspension, etc. - and Penitentiary Disciplinary Court. Prisoners can also receive advice and assistance concerning parole problems, appeals against a conviction or sentence and institutional matters.

The services of the Correctional Law Project are free to prisoners meeting their financial eligibility criteria.

You may contact project staff either by phone or by writing:

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SISTERHOOD

As native people, one of the gifts we were given was kindness. As native people we were taught not to judge others, as native people we were taught to welcome one another in a good way, as native people we were taught to forgive ourselves before we can forgive others. We as native people were given many gifts. These gifts the creator bestowed upon our people, many of us have never understood. Many of us have lived through abuse whether it be physical, mental or emotional. As children we were never exposed to our traditional and spiritual ways, therefore trying to deny our native heritage, because of the beliefs of nature meant we were dirty alcoholics and would never amount to anything. Its these beliefs that have destroyed our spirits and why our people end up in prison. Because of lacking of traditional ways, we became caught up in a world that was never ours.

We've let other people control our emotions, feelings and thoughts. We do things that we wouldn't dream of doing or saying to be accepted. In time we become what we see around us. We become hateful, revengeful, selfish, greedy, judgemental, spiteful, uncaring and unfeeling. It is only through our Elders, our sweet lodge, ceremonies, the pipe and the creator that we begin to understand what a proud heritage we have. We begin to look at "Ourselves", the pain we have caused our friends, our families and all those that have passed throughout our lives. It is then that the healing begins "within ourselves". The road is long and hard, we struggle within ourselves on a daily basis not wanting to let go of certain things, for fear of rejection and ridicule. But, in spite of all the hardships we endure, we are never alone. Look to the creator for guidance and strength, he's always there. Once we begin to follow and understand that road it gets easier and we begin to love ourselves, take care of our spirits, our mind and our body. We can see through the eyes of the creator, the beauty that surrounds us. You will feel that inner peace as you come into yourself. For the first time in your life, you will feel good about "you" and others. We have denied our identity for way too long, we lost who we were years ago. Don't be afraid to take that first step. What you will find eventually is that you understand all that under all that garbage and the masks we've worn, lies a beautiful, warm, caring person that has a lot to offer others. You will feel re-born as you finally let your true self surface. We are the caretakers of our spirits. Don't deny your inner beauty and your gifts for the sake of others.

Let only good spirits in You.

Cedar Woman

OJIBWAY PRAYER

**Gitchi - Manitou Father of all creation
Guide my stumbling feet
and guide them on the path
of honesty and truth
Fill my heart with love
and help me to give it
As freely as you do**

**Let my eyes see
beyond the surface
to look for the good in everything
.....and please Gitchi - Manitou
if at times I don't live up
to your guidance and spirituality
continue to bless me
with your wisdom and leadership**

MEEGWETCH

SINGING FROM THE HEART

One of life's great pleasures is singing. Whether it's rock n' roll, country and western, opera or Indian style.... singing is a pleasure.

As Lakota Elder once put it: "singing touches something deep within your soul". For most Indian singers and singing groups, this is very much the case.

Those who sing may have acquired their ability through practice and training or it may have been a gift. If one is not "gifted" many hours, days, weeks, months, years are spent practising in order to develop the singing voice and the drum beat.

Singing groups must learn many types of songs. There are religious songs - songs that honour and worship the Great Mystery and Creation. There are death songs for those still in this world and memorial songs for those who have walked the Holy Road and are now in another place.

Songs of this nature are sung with the utmost reverence and respect, and they are sung only when required.

There are songs for everyday use. They include honour songs for individual groups, songs for those who are receiving a name, songs that name a new Powwow committee and songs that are sung for warriors.

Then of course there are pop-wow songs that are sung for the entertainment of dancers and the people who attend Powwows. These songs are sung to inspire dancers and there is no bigger honour for a singer or singing group than to have a dancer congratulate the singers for a good song.

Sometimes a dancer who has earned the right to carry a whistle will blow his whistle on the drum, indicating that he likes the song and would like for the group to sing more verses of that song. The honour of this request lasts a lifetime in the memory of a singer.

Another great honour for singers is when women stand behind the drum and sing, because all of life's important things have come together - the little ones are dancing and some are singing; their mothers and aunties are singing and dancing as well. Nothing gives a father, brother or uncle more spiritual feeling especially when the grandmothers and grandfathers are looking on. Pride pours out and the men sometimes say that when this happens, they sing just a little bit harder..... As long as we can remember, singers have always positioned themselves in a circle around the drum. This reflects the circular nature of creation and the harmony of the singers' voices in time with the drum and reflects delicate harmony and balance within creation. For those who remember the Indian Philosophy, singing is very spiritual. Prayer and a recognition of a higher power must constantly be re-affirmed within the individual and the singing group as a whole. Singers who respect and honour a higher power will almost always be successful as singers. The people will always sense this in a group and the singers will earn the respect of the people. Nothing gives a singer more pleasure than to know that he sings for the people. At the end of the day, after the songs have been sung and the people are walking back to their camps smiling and happy, the singer knows he has done his job. Often a smile of satisfaction can be seen on the faces of the singers as they walk back to their camps knowing that something truly spiritual has happened there on that day and he pledges silently to himself tomorrow will be even better.

(By Gorden Wasteste - member of Elks Whistle Singers - from the Dakota Nation)

MOTHER/CHILD (LIVE IN)

ATTENTION: This issue has been subject to a lot of controversy and is on hold for the time being. This article is printed just to give you an idea of what ideas had been suggested regarding pregnant women and their babies.

Q: What will it involve?

A: Making a safe place for moms' and babies in P4W

Q: When will this be implemented?

A: It is hoped that women currently pregnant will be able to have their infants stay with them.

Q: Where will it be located?

A: In the Wing area.

Q: Who will supply infants needs?

A: This is not determined yet. Need to find out more from Mothers/Fathers if involved, Social Services and Prison as well.

Q: How long is this arrangement for?

A: To be determined individually.

Q: What is the procedure when a child is born?

A: Go to outside hospital to have babies and then when moms and babies are ready, come back to P4W.

Q: Do I have to apply for this?

A: Any women expecting should be in touch with CMOI's and the new parenting committee.

Q: Who is on the committee?

A: Chief of Health Care, Deputy Warden, Unit Manager, June Blackburn. We will also be inviting and expecting Mothers themselves to have input into the community, also Heather McLean.

Q: How do I put input into the committee?

A: Mothers are able to attend the next meeting held March 31st, 10:00 a.m.. Place of committee to be announced.

Q: Will they let older children in?

A: Has not been worked out yet, however the committee is in support of the idea. The priority is the expectant moms.

Q: What about a doctor?

A: For baby: Mary Pearson has offered to be baby's doctor. Women have other alternatives.

Q: Is there a way I could go to outside work to support my child?

A: Would have to be discussed with CO to see if you are eligible for a work program.

Q: What would be the visiting hours?

A: That has not been determined yet.

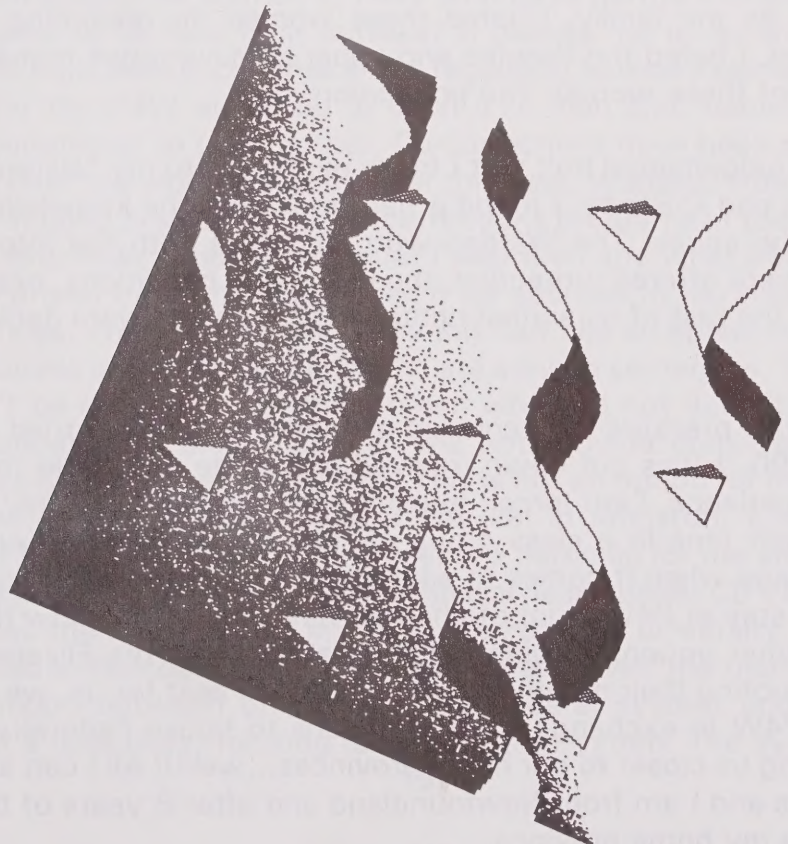
Q: Where are the boundaries to take my child?

A: Has not been determined yet.

Q: Where would your friend stay?

A: Women are encouraged to find another inmate Parent aide to help with baby care when moms' are tired, sick or just need a break.

MOTHERS SHOULD NEVER PLACE THEIR CHILD OR BABY IN SOMEONES' TEMPORARY CARE EVEN IF IT'S FAMILY OR FRIENDS WITHOUT FIRST TALKING TO A LAWYER.



CHOICES

I came to P4W in 1986 after a lengthy stay in the Metro West Detention Centre in Toronto. I was a basket case when I arrived here. After orientation on B-range for 90 days, I was ready to settle into my ten year sentence. The first year into my bit, I hung out in the library studying the C.D.'s, S.O.'s, P.S.R.'s and Human Rights Charter to begin the struggle in the Federal System for things that I fought so hard for in the Provincial System. Things like proper medical and dental care, healthy food, fresh air and exercise and educational programs. Family was not a consideration in Provincial, as all visits were behind glass and no conjugal visits - period!

After becoming aware of the information in the documents in the library, I soon went on a campaign to see that "Human Rights" would be left intact despite my imprisonment. Oh....there were a lot of losses, but when I won something, it was significant and a benefit to everyone, not just myself. I soon became a prisoner that "sisters" could turn to for help with complaints and problems they were having. I helped everyone but one type of prisoner - the sexual offender or "baby-killer". I found it very unsettling to be around these women. It became a constant reminder to the administration of how the integration of P.C.'s (Protective Custody prisoners put in general population) affected me as a woman. I was angry at their presence as it awoke sleeping memories within my sub-conscious of how I suffered incestuous acts inflicted on me by my family. I hated these women for reminding me of things I wanted to forget. I hated the Warden and upper administrative management for the sudden release of these women into population.

That is the only judgemental trait that I freely expressed to my "sisters" in population and the Warden and Custody. I found it hard to accept the knowledge of memories as a result of the abuse. The Warden won the battle with the integration of P.C. prisoners who were offered protection, the best living conditions, best jobs and best programs while the rest of us earned rights to these things were denied them due to their presence.

As a result of staff pressure and renewed memories of abuse, I tried to hang myself in February, 1990. I was cut down, revived and made to hobble to segregation. I survived the experience. I am forced to exist with women that in my opinion should be left to do their time in a class group of their own. I have no emotions except bitterness and rage when it comes to adults who kill and sexually hurt little kids. Throughout my stay at P4W, a lot of changes have happened. Now that I am forced to consider another option in doing my Federal bit, with the Elizabeth Fry Society Lobby Group shooting their mouths off about what is best for us, we are now facing the closing of P4W in exchange for mini-prisons to house Federal women. This is supposed to bring us closer to our home provinces...well!!! All I can say is that there are 10 provinces and I am from Newfoundland and after 8 years of being at P4W, I consider Ontario my home province.

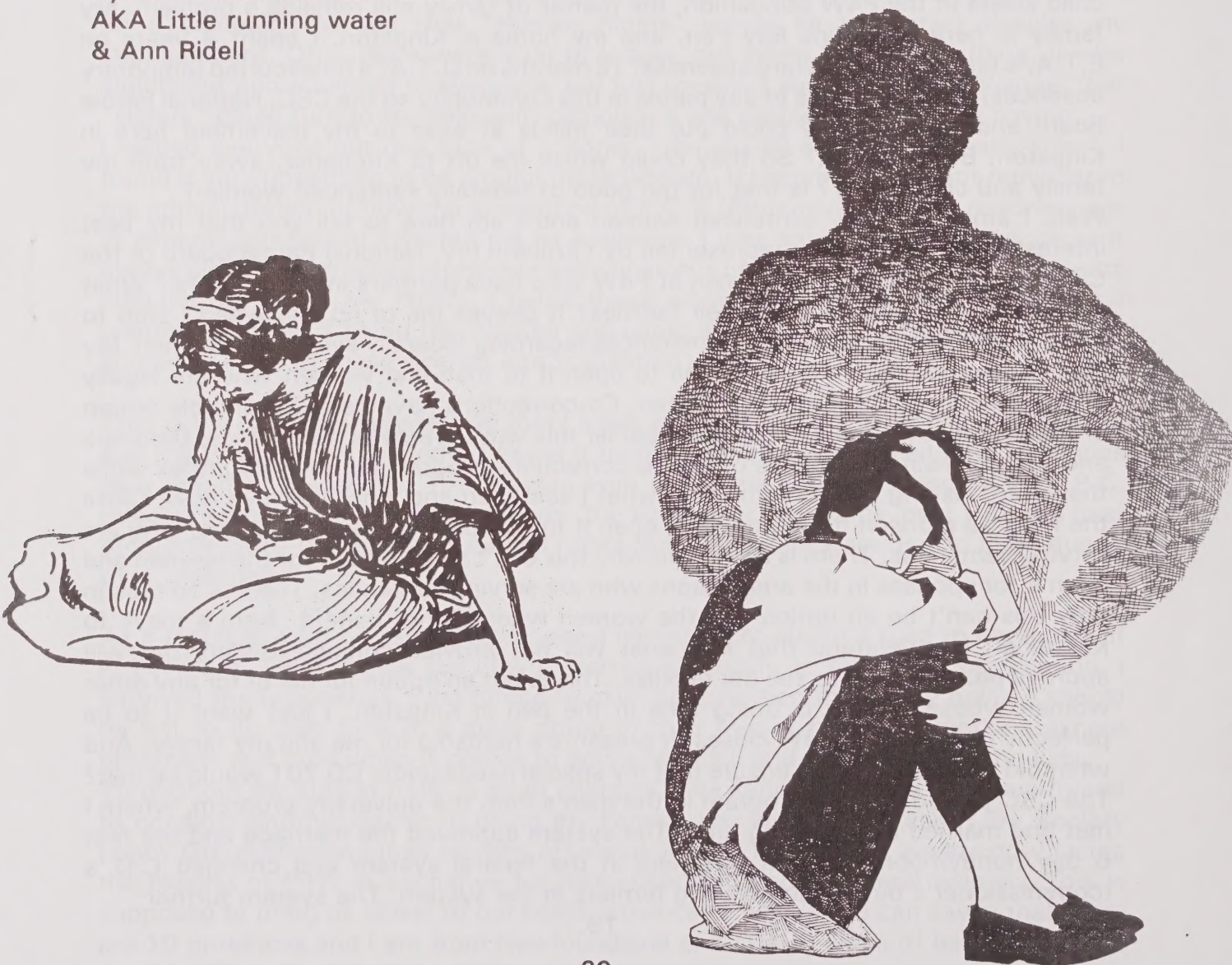
I met and married a man doing a life (25) sentence and he is housed five minutes down the road. I do not want to go to Kitchener. This will be leaving my family behind and to me that would pose hardship. It's a problem now for CSC to transfer him for our conjugal visits - 5 minutes down the road. What kind of excuses would we receive when and if I am transferred, by force - to Kitchener?

When task forces were going through the P4W, the majority of women at the time wanted co-corrections. The reasoning was to assure the same programs as the men. Since all levels of structure existed for men, - minimum, medium, maximum and camps in every province, the hardship to the taxpayer would be reduced. All CSC had to do was open a small wing for the few women from every province. It worked for Gayle Horii. She was, in my opinion, the fore-runner for co-corrections, working in this country. Thank you Gayle for your help in the struggle for justice of federal women in the justice system. It is now 8 years later and I find myself struggling with problems of the similar kind regarding home and family. Apart from the sexual offenders and child killers in the P4W population, the matter of family still remains a problem. My family is here at Collins Bay Pen. and my home is Kingston. I spent 4 years on E.T.A.'s (escorted temporary absences) 16 months on U.T.A.'s (unescorted temporary absences) and 15 months of day parole in this community so the CSC, National Parole Board and Elizabeth Fry could put their minds at ease to my placement here in Kingston. But for what? So they could whisk me off to Kitchener, away from my family and community? Is that for the good of federally sentenced women?

Well, I am a federally sentenced woman and I am here to tell you that my best interests have never been represented by Elizabeth Fry, National Parole Board or the CSC. And what about the women at P4W who have partners in area prisons? What about their rights to be near their families? It peeves me to no end when I stop to think about the logic behind circumstances regarding federally sentenced women. My idea or plan for the P4W would be to open it to men and women who are legally married and committed to one another. Co-corrections have been a workable option in systems all over the world. I recall earlier this year, Wardens from Africa, Denmark and Australia singing praises of the co-corrections programs in their countries while they were visiting P4W. I remember what I said then and what I believe now. Close the P4W as a prison for women and open it for spouses in the area prisons who are serving sentences. There is no reason why this can't be an option for the women and open it for spouses in the area prisons who are serving sentences. There is no reason why this can't be an option for the women who will not benefit from a move to Kitchener. I understand that Kitchener will not provide conjugal trailers but will approve passes home to see our families. This is not an option for me or for any other woman whose partner is doing time in the pen in Kingston. I just want it to be perfectly clear that as P4W closes, it presents a hardship for me and my family. And what did the system do to ensure that my special needs under CD 701 would be met? The CSC placed me in a program in the men's Pen, the university program, where I met and married a man doing time. The system approved the marriage and the first 6 day honeymoon between prisoners in the federal system and changed C.D.'s (commissioner's directives) for long termers in the system. The system further

encouraged us as partners by providing escorts for visits and weekly phone calls. Surely they can't expect us to be torn apart from our families merely because a lobby group wants to further secure employment in their ranks. What about our rights? Now as I end this piece, I am as much a basket case as when I came here regarding the stripping away of my rights as a federally sentenced woman. What options are left for me? What is the system offering me to protect my rights and to be near my partner? My partner is my life, my strength and my hope. I don't want to be torn from him. I nearly died as a result of P.C.'s being integrated into general population here at P4W. If you put me in Kitchener, away from my partner, you present the same set of circumstances that resulted in women dying at the P4W. I don't think I stand alone when I say : As long as there is family, love and hope - women will be willing to die to protect their FREEDOM OF CHOICE.

By: THERASA ANN GLAREMIN
AKA Little running water
& Ann Ridell



MOTHER IN PRISON

Well I am a mother in prison,
I know you don't understand.
Society thinks it's done the best for me.
They gave me a ten year sentence,
With no regard for my family.
And now they want me to rehabilitate
before I leave.

They said you're not a person,
So get that out of your head.
You're not a wife or mother,
To the outside world you're dead.
you can't be while you're in here.
What you were before.

Know you're a federal prisoner,
You're not a mother anymore.
I used to have an alcoholic husband,
He used to beat me real bad.
I used to have two wonderful children,
They used to be living with their dad,
They used to come and visit me,
And twice a month I got to call home.

Well someday I'll get out of here,
And hold my head high.
I'll teach the world of Jesus,
And try hard not to cry.

He was a prisoner once like me,
and suffered I am sure.

Now I'm a federal prisoner, I'm not a mother anymore.

Well I am a mother in prison,
I know you'll understand.
Society thinks it's done the best for me.

They gave me a ten year sentence,
With no regard for my family.
And now they want me to rehabilitate before I leave

They said you're not a person,
So get that out of your head.
You're not a wife or mother,
To the outside world you're dead.
You can't be while you're in here,
What you were before.

Now you're a federal prisoner,
You're not a mother anymore.

BY: T.A. GLAREMIN

SPECIAL BOND

To Dianne Shea

Please hold my hand and walk through this world with me

And love me forever until eternity

Show me how much I mean to you

and how much you really care

Share all life's dreams with me

And let nothing interfere

Tell me little secrets

that you never shared

Trust me whole heartedly

Let's make a bond that's rare

Let's drink pop by the sea

instead of champagne

We could even build sand-castles

in the rain

Let our love flow like river

into a stream

Let's just love together

and build our wonderful dream

Loving you forever,

***Your wife,
Ellen Shea***

DR. JECKLE

*I've been bouncin' around the system
for what seems like fifty years,
and I can count on my right hand
the folks that really care.*

*Oh, corrections staff they make me laugh,
they'll praise you to the moon,
they'll tell you not to worry...
You'll be out the door "real soon"*

*They say "Get involved in programs,
rehabilitate yourself"
But when you leave their office,
they dump your file back on the shelf.*

*But you think the ball is rolling,
So you take it all in stride
cause you'd do damn near anything
To get you back outside!*

*You'd jump through flaming hoops of fire
And crawl through broken glass,
And there are those, I do suppose,
Who'd kiss their C.O.'s ass!*

*They really have you programmed,
you're a mindless "zombie thing"
oh jump for joy, you silly toy -
You're a puppet on a string!*

*And while you've been "re-programmed"
five years have come and went
But you sit and hope like a stupid dope
that your effort was well spent.*

cont'd.....

***Now on the street, you walk "the beat"
just like the days gone by,
what's beneath you jacket?
Is that a .38 I spy?***

***You walk into a bank,
with a withdrawal set in mind,
And all the while, a drunken smile,
Upon your face they find.***

***Yes, Dr. Jeckle once again
transforms to Mr. Hyde;
and they don't wait or hesitate,
to lock you back inside.***

***You've lasted nearly four whole days,
Now you're "Haven bound" by bus
It seems to me, this rehab scheme,
is geared for them - NOT us!***

***Derek Anthony Williams
Collins Bay.***

Passion and romance
are two of a kind
put them together
and you will find
Your way to happiness
wishing upon a star
down the path and not too far

If you walk and walk
You'll see him there
And don't forget to be aware
He'll say he loves you and he cares
He'll sweep you off-
your feet from there
Just don't forget it's not a dream
He'll make you feel so serene

He'll be everything you've ever dreamed
of and more
He'll say you're the one
that he adores
And now it's the beginning of
your lives
'Cause now you will live as husband
and wife

You know you've changed so much
Our love was not enough
You needed more than that
I won't be coming back

And now that we are through
there's something I must do
To spend some time alone
Don't call me on the phone

You hurt me in so many ways
I cried for many days
I thought you were so cool
Just like the rest
You played me for a fool

BY: DARLENE HOGAN....

"MY SON"

My son so,
 absorbed in his play
Didn't I rock him
 to sleep yesterday
Was it only last night
 I stood by his bed
And touched his
 small fuzzy head?

Oh, Lord I know so.

Is it possible Lord
 someday he'll sigh
Even when he's a
 head taller than I
Will love and trust
 still be in his face
As he gives me
 a grown-up embrace?

Oh, Lord I know so.

His childhood years
 I'm able to share
Please help me fill
 with loving care
Help me guide him
 as both of us grow
May I teach him
 his mother to know.

Oh, Lord I know so.

Lord will you keep
 him in your care
Help him understand
 You and I care
And know we're with him
 everywhere!

Oh, Lord I know so.

AUTHOR UNKNOWN

HOME - by T.A. Glaremin

Oh my heart! Beating like the wings of a thousand eagles. One can not imagine the feelings when ones' eyes behold the home and land of ones' birth. Oh eyes! Streaming salt of a thousand seas. As I stood there taking in the house where I was born.

The old barn stood silent and still as the emerald green forest whispered that I had come home. Listen! Listen! The songs of the trees never changing, sounding louder as I walked up the lane. The grass, rich and rolling in the wind, almost took my breath away. I have never seen anything so beautiful in all my life as that patch of earth where I was born.

Taking my hanky from my hand bag, I blew away all the years of wishing I was home... and there I was! It felt good. Suddenly out of the house runs my Mom and Dad and what brothers and sisters are left, calling my name, running, falling. I do the same, I've come home. (AKA A.Riddell)

•The Twelve Commandments of A Range, P4W.

1. Thou shalt not wear high heels except if thou art also in a clique or a couple or both.
2. Thou shalt not take showers on weekends before 11:00 a.m. but after that any noise is O.K. at whatever decibel is deemed appropriate.
3. Thou shalt not attempt to wash clothes or use the phone unless thou art on the verbal list. Written lists are out of the question as they are far too much work.
4. Thou shalt not articulate when thou canst be crude, foul-mouthed or trashy. Otherwise thou might have an identity crisis.
5. Thou shalt not concentrate. Just to make sure thou doesn't inmates shall call to other inmates regularly in the manner of donkeys braying.
6. Thou shalt not ask for one extra item after thine canteen is totalled. This puts the canteen accountant in a frenzy.
7. Thou shalt not act as if thou possessed intelligence. Grey matter is mysterious, threatening, and must be stamped out before it spreads.
8. Thou shalt not accept gifts. These are tokens of the assumption that favors are expected. When said favors are not produced, the gifts go "poof."
9. Thou shalt not not smoke. To be a non-smoker is to be deviant from the norm on A Range.
10. Thou shalt not linger over thine food at meal times. Anyone who eats slowly is regarded as being slow in other departments.
11. Thou shalt not laugh delightedly. Thou shalt cultivate a laugh that is acceptably evil, duck-like, or scatter-brained.
12. Thou shalt not be a rat, stool pigeon, or informant, but thou shalt diligently hen-peck other inmates who do not conform to the Commandments of A Range.

Suzie Q. Funnybone

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